

# Northwestern | RESEARCH

## Bridge Funding Support for Research Programs

The Bridge Funding Support program provides interim funding to continue federally funded research projects that have a demonstrated likelihood of continued federal funding pending resubmission of a grant proposal.

- Up to \$50,000 from the Office for Research is available to maintain projects over a short duration (one year or less).
- Awards are required to receive 1:1 matching funds from the PI's department/school. These matching funds should include the balance(s) in the PI's discretionary account(s) and may include the departmental cost of graduate student support.

### Eligibility:

All full-time, tenure-track faculty with primary appointments in research-intensive departments in McCormick, WCAS, and the School of Communication are eligible to apply. Applications from the following are not accepted: postdoctoral fellows, faculty without a demonstrated history of external funding or investigative independence, faculty who are currently or will be on sabbatical during the project, faculty whose appointment will not continue at the University, and visiting professors.

### Project Specifications:

- Applications should demonstrate a bridge between an existing research effort and eventual external support, rather than requesting funding for a project repeatedly denied support and with no existing foundation from which a bridge to eventual external funding could be built.
- Awards may not cover budget reductions in existing awards from external sponsors or cost over-runs from previous cycles.
- Applications MUST include copies of the most recent review summary statements for an R01 or equivalent from NIH, NSF, DOE and/or other federal agency. While it is not an absolute requirement that the proposal has a score, a favorable score supports the PI's request for bridge funding.
- Requests should be limited to the minimum funding necessary to maintain a defined project over a short duration and cannot be expected to cover maintenance of an entire lab. The following will be considered for Office for Research funding support:
  - Salary/fringe of postdocs or other research staff
  - Essential supplies
  - Per diem costs for the current number of animals
  - Cryogenic services to archive genetic lines
  - Core facilities charges

The following expenses are not eligible for Office for Research funding support:

- Salary (base, summer, or other) for the PI
- Graduate student costs; these must be covered by the department, but (as noted above) may be included as part of the department's share of support
- Administrative support
- Travel, seminar or conference registration fees (may be supported by departmental/school funds at the Research Dean's discretion)

### Submission Process:

A school's Research Dean will submit applications on behalf of faculty to [researchdev@northwestern.edu](mailto:researchdev@northwestern.edu). The recommendation to the Research Dean should come from the department Chair or Assistant Chair and should make clear the departmental commitment. Direct applications from department Chairs or individual faculty will not be accepted. The school is expected to review the request for strategic importance and for funding likelihood and necessity.

### Bridge Funding Application:

Application materials should be submitted in a single PDF file in the order listed below.

1. **Grant Summary.** The narrative should include the following from the grant proposal:
  - Proposal Summary page (or equivalent)
  - Specific Aims page
2. **Budget Justification** (not to exceed one page). A narrative should be attached to this form which fully explains the relationship of costs to the proposed activity and the basis for cost estimates.
3. **PI's curriculum vita** (not to exceed 5 pages).
4. **Summary of current and pending support.**
5. **Other support** (not to exceed two pages). For the PI and all co-investigators, list all sources of internal and external support available for all research efforts at the current time or within the next six months. Include all department funds (including discretionary and startup funds). Indicate how you intend to spend these available funds. Please clarify the relationship between the proposed project and all currently funded activities.
6. **Copy of review panel summary statements and score** (if available).

### Bridge Funding Report:

Successful applicants are required to submit a progress report due within 1 year after receiving the funding. The report should be submitted as a PDF file to the Research Dean in the school of the PI's primary appointment who made the recommendation for bridge funding. This report should be a summary of one page or less including the following:

- Funding received from all external sources since the receipt of bridge funding.
- Manuscripts submitted or published since the receipt of bridge funding.
- Any other measures of research progress or productivity that are appropriate (do not provide a narrative summary).